

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2000/08/31 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100190028-8

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CHANNELS

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CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

CIA/WHSS

SENSITIVE

SOURCE REF:

CIA/DCI/WHIZWH 741214

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2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.Y
WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS
INVOLVED

ITEM NO: WH-2

DATE: 14 DECEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRIME MINISTER BECOMES CHIEF OF GAULLIST PARTY

REF : REUTERS 281, 282, 14 DEC 74, UNCLAS;

FBIS 62, 14 DEC 74, UNCLAS;

B/A, CONF

FRENCH PRIME MINISTER JACQUES CHIRAC WAS ELECTED HEAD OF THE
GAULLIST PARTY TODAY DURING A STORMY EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE. SECRETARY GENERAL ALEXANDRE SANGUINETTI
TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION THIS MORNING AND CHIRAC WAS VOTED INTO
THE OFFICE BY A SOLID MAJORITY.

PARIS RADIO QUOTES CHIRAC AS SAYING THAT HE HOPES TO REINVIGORATE
THE GAULLIST MOVEMENT. HE ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO "SURROUND"
HIMSELF WITH GAULLISTS--CONCEIVABLY A VEILED HINT OF CABINET
CHANGES TO COME.

ALTHOUGH A GAULLIST, CHIRAC IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE

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CLOSER TO PRESIDENT GISCARD--AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN--THAN TO HIS PARTY. DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN LAST MAY, CHIRAC WAS ONE OF THE FIRST GAULLISTS TO DESERT THE OFFICIAL CANDIDATE, CHABAN-DELMAS, AND CAST HIS LOT WITH GISCARD. HE HAS BEEN MIS-TRUSTED SINCE THEN BY ORTHODOX GAULLISTS. HE HAS, HOWEVER, MANAGED TO INCREASE HIS SUPPORT WITHIN THE LEADERLESS, DISPIRITED MOVEMENT DURING THE PAST MONTHS.

INITIAL PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT CHIRAC'S MOVE IS BEING INTERPRETED AS AN EFFORT TO SWING THE GAULLISTS MORE FIRMLY BEHIND GISCARD'S GOVERNMENT. CHIRAC MAY, IN FACT, HAVE DECIDED THAT THE TIME IS RIPE AND THAT HE HAS BECOME STRONG ENOUGH TO CONTROL THE GAULLISTS. IF THIS IS THE CASE, HE MAY ATTEMPT TO PLACE GAULLISTS IN KEY CABINET POSTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WHILE THIS WOULD STRENGTHEN HIS HAND IN WHIPPING THE GAULLISTS INTO LINE BEHIND GISCARD, IT WOULD ALSO INCREASE GAULLISTS INFLUENCE ON THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY. IT WOULD BE A SETBACK FOR GISCARD'S SCHEME TO FORM A "NEW MAJORITY" OF THE CENTER. PARADOXICALLY, IT COULD ALSO GIVE GISCARD MORE LATITUDE TO COOPERATE WITH THE US--ASSUMING

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GAULLIST PRIDE WERE ASSUAGED BY CLEAR RECOGNITION FROM THE US
THAT FRANCE IS A KEY POWER--SINCE THE GAULLISTS WOULD FEEL THEY
HAD MORE CONTROL OVER THE COURSE OF HIS ACTIONS. E-2 IMPDET.H
(SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: W EUR DIV AND NIO [REDACTED] 25X1A

DATE: 14 DEC 74
ORIG: [REDACTED] /WHSS 25X1A
UNIT: CIA OPS CTR
EXT: 9340

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